

**In the claims:**

**Claim 1** (currently amended)            A process for the purification of N-carboxyanhydrides of amino acids, comprising contacting the N-carboxyanhydride(s) of amino acids, in solution or in suspension in a nonpolar solvent medium, with silica added ~~to the medium or constituting a stationary bed~~ in an amount from 0.5 to 10% by weight with respect to the weight of N-carboxyanhydrides to be purified.

Cancel **Claim 2.**

**Claim 3** (previously presented)            The process of Claim 1 wherein contact is achieved by mixing, in the nonpolar solvent medium, the silica with the N-carboxyanhydride(s), in solution or in suspension.

**Claim 4** (previously presented)            The process of Claim 1 wherein the silica used is chosen within the category known as silica gel.

**Claim 5** (previously presented)            The process of Claim 1 wherein the solvent medium is an aromatic hydrocarbon.

**Claim 6** (previously presented)            The process of Claim 1 wherein the purified N-carboxyanhydride(s) is/are treated with an aqueous solution of an inorganic or organic acid.

**Claim 7** (previously presented)      The process of Claim 6 wherein the pH of the medium is between 1 and 2.

**Claim 8** (previously presented)      The process of Claim 6 wherein the treatment is carried out at a temperature of between 0°C and 15°C.

**Claim 9** (previously presented)      The process of Claim 6 wherein the acid used is an inorganic acid.

**Claim 10** (previously presented)      The process of Claim 9 wherein the inorganic acid is hydrochloric acid.